

Colonel Richard Hernandez enlisted in the U.S. Army in February 1967. He attended Basic Combat Training at Fort Benning, Georgia and Combat Medic training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. He was assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> BN, 72<sup>nd</sup> Armor BDE, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division as a medic from August 1967 to September 1968. He participated in offensive and defensive combat operations along the Korean DMZ. Other U.S. Army assignments include Letterman Army Hospital, Presidio of San Francisco, September 1968 to February 1970, where he was an assistant ward master and flight medic with the 6<sup>th</sup> Army Air Evacuation Detachment. He was discharged from active duty February 1970.

Colonel Hernandez transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) in 1972. His assignments include the 91<sup>st</sup> Division (Training) and the 6253<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Army Hospital. Colonel Hernandez was discharged from the USAR in 1977 at the rank of Staff Sergeant (E-6).

Colonel Hernandez joined the U.S Navy Reserve (USNR) in 1980 at the rank of Petty Officer First Class (E-6). His assignments include Delta Company, 8<sup>th</sup> Tank BN, 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division, Marine Force Reserve; Preventive Medicine Section A, 4<sup>th</sup> Medical BN, Marine Force Reserve; Group Aid Station, 4<sup>th</sup> Force Service Support Group, Marine Force Reserve; Headquarters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Expeditionary Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division; and Headquarters, 4<sup>th</sup> Medical BN, Marine Force Reserve. He served on the Secretary of the Navy's National Naval Reserve Policy Board 1995 to 1997. He retired from the USNR in May 2001 at the rank of Master Chief Hospital Corpsman (E-9). At the time he was the Command Master Chief for the 4<sup>th</sup> Medical BN, Marine Force Reserve.

Colonel Hernandez's deployments include Korea (1967-68, 1988 and 1989), Norway (1991 and 1996), Chile (1992), Grenada (1994), Haiti (1997), Dominican Republic (1999), and El Salvador (2000).

Colonel Hernandez was commissioned as a Major in the South Carolina State Guard in December 2001. He was appointed the Chief Medical Officer for 3BDE. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 2004 and to Colonel in 2008. He was appointed the Chief Medical Officer for the South Carolina State Guard in 2009 and assumed command of the 3BDE April 2013.

Colonel Hernandez's has an Associate Degree in Respiratory Therapy from Butte College (Orville, CA) 1976, Bachelor of Art's Degree (1984), Master of Public Health degree (1988) and Doctor of Public Health degree (1999) from the University of South Carolina.

Colonel Hernandez's awards include the Navy Meritorious Service Medal, Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Fleet Marine Force Enlisted Warfare Specialist Device, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Navy/Marine Corps Overseas Service Medal.